

You can do so much better than Tammy Thompson by thestarriestnight

Category: Stranger Things (TV 2016)

Genre: Fluff, Hurt/Comfort, Internalized Homophobia, Original Character(s), Period-Typical Homophobia, Robin Buckley & Steve Harrington Are Best Friends, just a little bit, like a little bit hurt/comfort, there's just one bit where it's a little sad, this fic is mostly nice, this is a cute fic i promise

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Summary:

Steve thinks Robin can get a girl much cooler than Tammy Thompson. Robin's too cool for her anyway. So Steve is now determined to do one thing:

He's going to find Robin a girlfriend

You can do so much better than Tammy Thompson

"What about her?"

Robin turned her head to the direction that Steve was not-so-subtly pointing at. Her eyes landed on a woman sitting there and she couldn't help but roll her eyes.

"You can't be serious." Robin simply stated, staring at Steve.

"What?" He asked innocently.

"Steve, she has a child next to her and looks like she could be my mom!" Robin explained.

"Well, I don't know. Maybe you like older women?" He suggested nonchalantly.

Robin chuckled.

"Not women twice my age, you dingus!" She exclaimed.

"Alright," Steve said and started looking around the mall the two were inside of, his eyes wandering from one girl to the other. "There! The girl in the red dress? She's pretty cute."

"Steve, I don't need you to find me a girlfriend." Robin replied, knowing full well it won't really mean anything. Steve has been adamant on finding her a girlfriend ever since Robin came out to him. 'You can do so much better than Tammy Thompson', he would insist 'you need someone, someone cool!' So now Steve would point out pretty much any and every girl he saw that Steve thought seemed cool enough for Robin. And apparently there were many of those in Hawkins.

"I know I don't need to, but I want to help!" Steve insisted. "Now, what's your opinion on the girl in the red dress?"

"What even is your plan if I do like someone?" Robin asked, still not looking at the girl he was pointing out. "In case you haven't noticed, the majority of girls want a boyfriend."

"It's simple, I've thought this whole thing through. We find a girl you like and I go up to talk to her. I mention both you and me, subtly, of course, and, if she seems more interested in you, I introduce you with her. And there we go, matchmaker Steve has found you a girlfriend." He explained and Robin had to try her best to hold in her laughter at the way Steve sounded right now.

"That will never work." She stated and laughed a little.

"Not if you don't believe it will!" Steve simply replied. "Now, again, the girl in the red dress?"

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The girl in the red dress wasn't really Robin's type. In all honesty she wasn't sure what her type is. She knows she liked Tammy Thompson - the girl who would almost always dress in light colours and liked pretty dresses - but Robin would be lying if she said she hadn't seen women with vastly different looks and found them attractive as well.

"Come on, you have to have a type!" Steve insisted.

The two of them were hanging out at Steve's place right now. Both his parents were away and neither of the two really had much to do today. They had a day off work, Hawkins didn't have any new monsters or Russian spies (as far as they're aware at least) and none of the dozens of children Steve's friends with had currently anything planned that they could be involved in. Thus, Steve and Robin decides to hang out for the day. Just stay at home and watch some cheesy, fun movies.

After they had just finished some weird rom-com that Robin couldn't even fully remember the name of, the two started talking and somehow the conversation had steered into Steve asking Robin what her type in girls are.

"I don't know." She had initially replied, but Steve was clearly not satisfied with that answer.

"What kind of girls do you usually find pretty?" Steve asked. "It'll help me in my search for your future girlfriend!"

"Steve, I don't know. I've never thought about what my type is."

He sighed.

"Okay, I know you liked Tammy Thompson, so I guess girls like her might be an option." Steve said. "What about... Rachel Smith? I think she was also in Ms. Click's class. Given the chance, would you go on a date with her?"

"No!" Robin replied immediately. She didn't even have to think about it. Rachel always dressed in that darker, more punk look. She definitely pulled it off well, but it always made her seem very intimidating to Robin. "She scares me."

Steve laughed, but couldn't fully disagree with the reasoning.

"Alright. What about... Monica Atkins?"

"Oh... maybe." Robin admitted, thinking about the girl Steve mentioned. Robin doesn't think they've ever interacted, but she was quite pretty.

They spent the next 40 or so minutes like that, with Steve listing various names of the girls in their school and Robin answering on whether she'd go on a date with them or not. Robin thought it was a waste of time. Steve apparently had figured out what Robin's type is by the end of it.

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Steve definitely started pointing out girls to Robin less.

Initially she thought Steve had given up on the whole thing, but then, during one of their work shifts, he asked her about this girl that had just come in and started browsing the "new releases" section.

Okay, Robin thought she was cute. The girls appearance wasn't exactly anything too unique or something that would make her stand out - curly hair and a simple outfit - yet she seemed incredibly friendly. And Robin really liked that aura the girl gave off.

"Alright, you got me, she's cute." Robin admitted to Steve.

Robin wonders if Steve has ever had an intelligent thought in his life. He must've, considering he's not only gotten this far in life, but has also fought monsters and dealt with the freaking government before. And yet, at times like these, she doesn't believe there's anything that goes on inside of that head.

Because Steve Harrington was now jumping the counter and going to approach the girl. Just like that.

Robin stayed where she was, behind the counter, but that didn't prevent her from practically feeling the awkwardness and second-hand embarrassment from their interaction.

Steve was clearly struggling to keep the conversation and the girl didn't seem to want to participate in it either. The worst part was when Steve basically pointed Robin out to the girl. God, this was embarrassing.

Luckily Steve came strutting back to the counter only a few seconds later, disappointment all over his face.

"She has a boyfriend." He said and sighed.

"What did you expect, you dingus?" Robin asked. "Your plan will never work."

"Hey, it'll work. Steve Harrington is going to get you a date!" He exclaimed.

"Oh, he's referring to himself in third person now."

"That's how you know I mean it." Steve said and Robin couldn't help but laugh. He's such an idiot.

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"Why do you bother with all this?" Robin asked. The two had just finished their shift at work that day and decided to go get some ice cream and hang out for a little while afterwards. It was a nice day out and, besides during work, the two hadn't really gotten a chance to hang out lately.

"What do you mean?" Steve replied while the two were walking around Hawkins.

"I mean... finding me a girlfriend. Why do you bother?" Robin asked again. She looked down at the ground beneath her before continuing. "It's not like it's gonna work. I'm not normal, Steve, I doubt there are other girls out there like me."

Robin hated it, but everything was genuinely starting to get to her. She knows what most people think of people like her. Everyone always says the most hurtful things and the conversations about people like her are always quiet and hushed.

The movies and shows weren't exactly better. The couples were always a boy and a girl. If there ever was a character different from that norm, Robin noticed that they always seemed to be the villains or made fun of. Like the very existence of someone not liking the opposite gender was some huge joke, someone they should laugh at.

Robin tried her best not to let it get to her too much. But she can't hold those feelings back forever, sooner or later the words would start to bother her. And that's exactly what they were doing lately.

"Hey, no. That's not true. You're perfectly normal, Robin." Steve responded, wanting so badly to comfort his friend. "Yeah, you like girls, so what? I do too. That doesn't make you not normal."

"You know it's different, Steve." Robin replied. Steve's heart almost broke at the sight. He's never seen Robin like this. She always seemed so strong, like nothing in this world could ever break her. He hated that something or someone made her feel this way.

"I know other people think it's different, but it isn't!" Steve said. "It shouldn't be considered different at all. Anyone that thinks that way is just wrong and an asshole. It's not wrong to like girls, Robin. And some day the world will see that."

Robin appreciated that more than she ever could put into words. She was glad to have someone on her side. Someone who didn't judge or hate her. Someone who was by her side no matter what. She appreciated having Steve around so much.

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Robin remembers the day she questioned whether Steve has ever had an intelligent thought in his life, since he always seemed to do the most stupidest things out there.

Now it was time for Steve to question Robin's smarts.

She was just helping a costumer with something and, after the costumer had paid, Robin came back to Steve completely confused.

"She gave me her phone number." Robin replied after Steve had asked her about the confused look on her face. "Why on Earth would she do that?"

"You can't be serious." Steve stated. There was no way, right? She couldn't actually be this clueless. But the look on Robin's face made it clear that she was. "Robin, come on."

"What?" Robin questioned, still not understanding what Steve was on about.

"She obviously likes you!" Steve explained. Robin was surprised by what she heard and Steve could practically see the gears in her head turning as she was thinking the whole thing through.

"No, it can't be." Robin said, not believing it. "It must be something else."

"What else could it be?" Steve asked. "Trust me, if a girl gives you her number, she likes you!"

Robin still hesitated to accept that.

"But she doesn't know I'm...into girls." Robin replied, whispering the last half of the sentence, just in case anyone hears.

"Well, maybe she could tell? Is... is there a way to tell?" Steve questioned, clearly having no idea how same-sex relationships worked. "Or maybe she just likes you that much that she's willing to risk it without fully knowing! You should call her."

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Robin didn't call her. It didn't matter how much Steve insisted that the girl likes Robin or how much he encouraged her. She was too nervous about the whole thing. Robin decided it'd just be safer not to call. That way there's no chance that she's misunderstood the situation entirely.

Robin expected nothing to happen afterwards. She thought that would be it. There'd be no phone call and both her and the other girl's life would be like it always was.

However, things often seem to be the opposite of what you expect. As only about a week later, the girl came back inside the store.

"Hey, is the girl with the short hair here?" She asked Steve, as he was currently the only person behind the counter.

"Robin? Yeah, she's just restocking one of the shelves. Why?" Steve asked, having no idea this was the girl that gave Robin the number.

"Oh, I just... wanted to thank her. She helped me choose a movie to watch with my friends and we all loved it. That's all." Is what she said, though it was clear that wasn't the truth.

"Okay. I'll go get her for you." Steve replied and walked over to where he knew Robin was at.

"Robin. There's some girl here who wants to see you."

"What?" She looked at the direction of where the girl was and her eyes widened. "That's the girl who gave me her number!" She whispered to Steve. Robin tried not to show it, but she now felt a little nervous.

"That's her?" Steve asked. "Well go talk to her!"

Robin wanted to protest, wanted to do anything else. But Steve was already pushing her towards the girl. Robin had no choice but to approach her.

"Hello." Robin said awkwardly when she approached the girl. She

knows she has to say something more to her, but her mind is drawing blanks on what. How do the hell do you talk to pretty women again?

"Hi." She responded, smiling at Robin. "I'm Amelia. I don't know if you remember me, but I came in here a little while ago. I gave you my number, but you never called. Just wanted to ask about that!"

Robin didn't know what to say, speechless at the sheer confidence this woman had.

"Sorry if that was weird. You just seemed cool and I'm always looking for more cool people to be around, so thought I'd give it a shot." Amelia continued and smiled again.

"Oh, yeah, sorry." Was all Robin managed to get out.

"That's fine. If you don't wanna call, maybe we can hang out a bit after you're done working? If that's okay with you?" She asked.

Again, the confidence this girl had was amazing. Robin couldn't believe it. This girl was something else and Robin wanted to get to know her more as well.

"I still have about 2 hours left to work, but that sounds fun." Robin said.

"Great. I'll see you after then." Amelia said and, Robin isn't sure if she's imagining it or if Amelia just winked at her at the end. Then she left the store.

Robin stared at the door for a few seconds, attempting to process everything that just happened.

"So what is it?" Steve approached Robin and asked, snapping her out of her thoughts.

"I think I just got a date with a girl." Robin responded.

Steve's whole face transformed to the biggest smile Robin thinks she's ever seen.

"Oh my god. Robin, that's fantastic!" He cheered, outwardly seeming

way more excited about Robin's supposed date than Robin herself.

But Robin was definitely excited too. She was nervous and happy, and still partly trying to understand all that just happened.

God, she couldn't wait for her work shift to be over.

Author's Note:

Okay, I'm gonna be honest. I didn't do a whole lot of research for this so, if anything is historically inaccurate, I apologise. I hope you enjoyed this either way. And I hope they give Robin a girlfriend because I love her and she deserves it.

Thank you for reading